

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OL

From Scotland there comes a remarkable story which is vouched for

Even at 106 the donkey was "hale and hearty," and we are therefore led to suppose that if it had not been the victim of a deplorable casualty it might have lived on another century or so. There is no telling to what lengths the donkey's stubbornness will go. It absolutely sets its face against dying, it is probable that it can always succeed in living on a bit longer. It is not to be treated with so much undervalued insult and contempt that its members have preferred to die straight away rather than continue to be the sport of donkey-boys and the butt of the stermonger. Life has not had so many attractions that the average jackass has seen any strong reason for derring its indefinite prolongation. This aleonian centennarian of asses, however, must have met with exceptional good fortune in the way of masters and mistresses, or it may be this apostle of new donkey philosophy endeavored to show that life is worth living after all. Unlike the other asses, this donkey was not met with a tragic fate. It has undoubtedly perished before its time, though not exactly in the bloom of early youth, and we are left behind to speculate on the causes which kept it alive so long.

There are always people to throw doubts on every historical fact; so it may be as well to mention that this tiger's age is known and guaranteed for one hundred and six years back; and before that time its history is buried in profound darkness. No British registers tell when it first arrived in India, its origin is quite inaccessible, at instead of a paltry hundred years ago, this extraordinary quadruped really as old as the union between Scotland and England. It may be witnessed the Portenriots, or even resided at Queen Mary's marriage at Black Bothwell, or been an humble follower of John Knox. Who can tell? Its age is so great that the memory of the oldest inhabitant runneth up to the contrary. A donkey that continued to exist for upwards of a century would be equal to almost anything in the way of protracting his mortal span beyond reasonable limits. It is a vegetarian animal, and, as a rule, is a very frugal feeder. Carnivorous creatures live longer than carnivora. A tiger's motto is "A long life and a merry one"; but the elephant browns out for half a century.

tuck its look. Viewed from in front
 resembles the fat boy in "Pick-
 ick," and from behind a portly old
 getting into an omnibus. The
 sole question of why some animals
 so much longer than others is in-
 teresting, and is one to which
 science has not yet given a satisfactory
 answer. Probably, loss of teeth is
 the cause of the enormous differ-
 ences than to the herbivorous ani-
 mals, when age renders it unable to
 catch its prey, usually only into the
 hole to die.

is that somebody has ever seen a
one. There is a curious fancy
among some gardeners that to bury a
eye under a fruit-tree will insure a
fruitful crop of fruit; but the diffi-
culty is to find the deceased ass. In
respect the donkey very much re-
sembles the elephant, for hunters
are unanimous in their declara-
tion that they have never yet en-
tered the body of an elephant
who had died a natural death. In the
forests of Ceylon, which still form
the happiest hunting-grounds, no ele-

The Cingalese say that there is somewhere in the island a mysterious valley into which the elephants disappear when they die, and that they are buried there. When they die, death comes upon them, and that if you are an explorer or "shikaree" were fortunate enough to hit upon this valley he would perceive therein the mouldering bones of immense multitudes of pachyderms—a veritable elephants' cemetery, chosen and maintained by themselves. The only objection to this fanciful theory is that nobody has yet discovered anything approaching this vast mausoleum, and so the mystery of what becomes of the dead elephants remains as a puzzle as it relates to the dead donkeys, the dead London sparrows. That donkeys do die we know; they are not immortal in this life, whatever they may be in the next; and Bishop Butler has averred that animal immortality is by no means an impossible hypothesis—to deny it point-blank is, according to this ecclesiastical and philosophical authority, an idea "founded on ignorance."

Geographical Notes.
[Science.]

Aproras of our comments on the facilities for navigation in Hudson bay (*Science*, No. 142, page 350) we learn that the company's annual vessel, with a cargo valued at over a million, was recently driven on the bar at the anchorage near Moose Factory, the port of the region, and became a total wreck.

The whaling fleet in Alaskan waters this summer numbered forty sailing-vessels and eight steamers, with a total tonnage of 44,262 tons. No further disasters had occurred up to the latest advices, and the vessels embayed by ice near Point Barrow had been safely extricated. One hundred and twenty-six whales had been taken.

In the report of Governor Swineford, of Alaska, recently made public, an interesting *résumé* of affairs in the Territory is presented. Educational matters have made some progress, though a want of tact on the part of the agents of the Bureau of Education, notwithstanding his energy and ability, has aggravated difficulties which, in the nature of things, were serious enough already. The value of the southeastern part of the Territory is warmly maintained by the Governor, who upholds essentially views expressed by many travelers, which it has been the fashion, on the part of ignorant or interested persons, to deride as "rose-colored." The success of mining and fishing enterprises, and the practicality of subsidiary agriculture, has insisted upon. Hardy vegetables do well, and cattle are sleek and in the best condition. The white population of this part of the Territory amounts to 1,900, and that of the partly civilized natives to 1,000 more.

The Chemical Society of a paper by J. M. Cailletet and Bouty it appears that the electrical resistance of most pure metals decreases regularly with a deduction of temperature from 0 degrees to 123 degrees, and that the coefficient of variation is practically the same in all cases.

Pike's Peak railroad, when completed, as it is soon expected to be, will be the most notable track in the world. It will mount 2,000 feet higher than the Lima and Oroya road in Peru. It will traverse thirty miles of its length through a succession of complicated curves and grades, with no piece of straight track longer than 300 feet.

to Gerra, the Pair Made Prominent by the

The first forty miles leads mainly through tropic lowlands, whose every acre is burdened with creepers, parasitic growths, and an astonishing variety of orchids, all tangled together in a many-tinted mass of foliage. It is a tradition devoutly believed by the Mexicans that the veritable Garden of Eden was located in this corner of Mexico, and that Jalapa occupies the exact spot where, according to Genesis, the Lord walked in the cool of the day. Certainly this portion of the route of Vera Cruz carries out the idea of Eden, the "garden of the paradise" after the manner of the Bible, where there are many traces of disorient and of the descendants. Within fifty miles there are no plantations to be seen, and a few evidences of human labor. All is a flowery wilderness, beautiful to behold but inde-

the mangrove-plant, and mud-
the locality, is believed to be the real
Indian fig-tree" to which our first
persons resorted when they bethought
themselves of seeking for in-
teresting fibres supplied all the materials, its long
and the sharp-pointed thorns
to terminate its gigantic leaves serving
this day for pins and needles.

One may travel for days through this
solidly without hearing the song
of a bird or seeing any animals but
those that destroy. The serpent is the
master of the situation, and has
rattled a numerous progeny. Gigan-
tatic snakes, asps, and a hundred
or dangerous species glide away at
approach: reptiles prey upon each
other in the miasmatic lagoons, where
of calcitrant larks lurk under every leaf:

approach to the King's bridge is flanked by stone forts on both sides, and all the adjacent heights are strongly fortified. Perhaps no spot in Mexico has witnessed more stirring scenes, for many times during the incessant wars of the last three centuries the pass been hotly contested. General Winfield Scott and his troops used here; and not far away his troops were encamped when the yellow fever broke out among them and hundreds of brave soldiers were upon the field. Armies swept by to civil conflicts have found progress stopped by these frown-batteries. Here Gomez practiced cruelties in the name of liberty; in the neighboring fastnesses the revolutionary generals lay concealed in

stions to them to alight with the most politeness, the knights rested male travellers to stretch themselves prone upon their faces in the ground. Few were so foolishly to disobey when an overpowering number of carabines were pointed at craniums, for the least sign of reluctance was the signal for one's instant execution. If any priests were present they were given the first attention—out respect for their sacred calling—the adorers kneeling before them in humility and requesting "Aims" in crosses, rosaries, or whatever enables the fathers might happen to, and afterward craving a parting *grace*. Next the ladies were rid of their purses, ear-rings, and trinkets, not without many gal-

All the highways and by-ways of Mexico are strewn with rude crosses, each with its surrounding heap of stones, marking wayside murders. But the traveller may console himself with the assurance that, if assassinated here, his murderers will set up the symbol of their faith above him, and tarry long enough to mutter prayers for his unending soul. And through all the years, each passer-by will pause to say an Ave Maria, and to toss a pebble upon his grave in token that the pious duty has been performed, till such a mighty mausoleum is collected that Gabriel will be puzzled how to get him out from under it!

years' years of incessant revolutions Mr. Murphy made regular trips between the coast and the City of Mexico, charging \$500 in gold for carrying a single passenger and \$16 per ounce for letters, and it is not surprising that he was meeting his perils to be encountered. The doughy little Irishman, who is as brave as a lion and as honest as the day, was personally acquainted with all the "professionals" along the route, and knew that his life was not worth a penny unless he "stood in" with them to a certain extent. Though the fearful and dangerous circumstances would permit, he never betrayed one of the robbers, and they in turn protected him and his passengers on many occasions. Refresh his memory with "a drop of the craythur," and he will entertain you for hours with gruesome tales. He will show you the greatest and the most famous spots where less than forty-seven human beings have been hanged to its branches; spots where atrocious murders were committed in open day; thickets wherein

Not far beyond the King's bridge is Enserro, the once splendid kingdom-seat of Santa Ana, now a most beautiful spot, with its products of carobs, as his vast estate in the *tierra caliente*, called Manga de Clavo, but more salubrious. He had often made a stand here in civil wars, and learned to appreciate the beauty of the place long before he had the means to acquire a foot of land anywhere. Mexico has not produced a more remarkable man than this same Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana, whom Americans remember as "the butcher of Alamo." During his extraordinary career in no land has he met such pronouncements—five of them made by himself and the rest made by others for his benefit. Twice he was chosen President by the Liberal anti-Catholic party and three times by the conservative party, the latter bitterly opposing the clerical element. Twice he was banished from Mexico.

underground, may be seen Santa Anna's grave. It is enclosed by a row of iron bars from torches linked together by chains. A strategy cactus-bush grows on the ground, and at its foot a cedar-tree suggests for its support, being nearly bare of branches from the constant demands of visitors, who gladly give the section \$1 for a bit of living green in which such illustrious dead has found resurrection. A plain granite slab bears with wreaths of dried immortelles hung only the name and date of death—January 21, 1876. Those who attended the obsequies say that he was actually buried in ragged raiment—so great were his necessities. His wife is still living at the capital, and is by no means an old woman, for he was only thirteen when married to her irrepressible ruler.

Not far from the narrowest point of the pass a diverging trail leads to the left, to a ridge where cannon are yet found, and where Santa Ana lost one of his legs—a wooden one. That valiant warrior seems to have been sort of a human centipede, for already we have been pointed to at least a dozen historic spots "where Santa Ana lost leg!"

Just beyond Cerro Gordo the now rapidly-ascending road leaves the lowlands altogether and enters the *tierra templada*, or temperate region. A little below what is now considered the ever line—beyond which it is believed that Yellow Jack cannot come—a village which looks so particularly ominous, as to this land of desolate canyons, is even in occasion remark. They



Near Pinar del Rio is an old Spanish mission station, perched high on a hill above a bridge that looks antique enough to have come down from Adam's day. When the Indians attacked this fort, one summer's day two centuries ago, the Spaniards kept perfectly quiet, and lay low within the walls till the astonished savages climbed up to see if anybody was at home, and their heads were switched off in a twinkling.

In many places straight, slender spires of "organ" cactus, covered with poisonous spines, tower from sixty to eighty feet in height. We see frequent patches of the curious substance called vegetable silk, which the Indians use for making hammocks and cobbos and an excellent silky cloth woven; also the tree that bears large balls resembling cotton. The species of palm from whose abundant crop of

Art Notes.

The statue of William Allen for Ohio's niche in the Capitol at Washington will be made by Carl H. Niehaus, of Cincinnati, whose painful offer of Jarfield is soon to be added to his country's bronze and marble woes.

Thorwaldsen used to be a name to wear by in sculpture; he ran Canova close second. At the sale of Sir George Montagu's effects several fine pieces by the Copenhagen did not bring 100; a "Greek Girl With Dring" fetched \$155. A colossal bust of Napoleon I, crowned with laurel, by Canova, brought \$450.

At the meeting of the British Association the president of the section on mechanical science, B. Baker, civil en-

make a complete survey of the work, and the record reads like that of a modern engineering undertaking. The road covered a reservoir in the hills proceeded an arched conduit about ten thousand yards long, partly driven as a tunnel and partly executed on the 'cut-and-cover' system adopted on the London underground railway. The tunnel proper, more than 1,000 yards in length, was hewn by hammer and chisel through the solid limestone rock. It was driven from the two ends like the great Alpine tunnels, without intermediate shafts, and the progress of the 40 yards a day was carefully contemplated for setting only some 60 men feet out of level and little more out of line. From the lower end of the tunnel branch were constructed to supply the city were constructed.

A London physician, who has been investigating the subject, says the taste for absinthe was imported from Algeria by the French troops. The effects of this drug, he concludes, when taken in excess, are even more ruinous than those of any of the forms of alcohol with which we are familiar in this country, and the craving once formed is irresistible as the craving for opium.

The English royal family are blessed with singularly hearty appetites—not the appetite of gourmands, who live to eat and not eat to live, but the appetite that indicates a clean palate and a good digestion. They look upon four substantial meals a day as by no means an excessive allowance of food. Even at seven o'clock tea the wafer-like bread

and curtailing the menu of the "wagger" society dinner, a reformer at his Royal Highness insisted on his dislike for prolonged ceremony. At Marlborough House and in drawing the severities that surround royal etiquette are gone away as far as possible, and the enjoyment of guests is thereby considerably enhanced.

Americans at a Court.
[Paris American Register.]

It seems that the career of the King of Wurtemberg's American favorite, very Councillor of Court von Jackson, reads almost like a fairy tale. He came to a sudden close, inasmuch as the latest accounts from Stuttgart say that he has left that city and is not likely to return. From being a pupil

Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C. 20250

**'the Festival'-Its
New Duke in Ha**

emerged from the storm
into the sunshine of im-
mortality. Then she saw that she
was to do here on earth in
living and adorning of hu-
manity with the beauty of holi-
ness as she realized that patient
and faithful death were not the
end of the Christian, but that,
grounded in love, it was possible to
redeem the world the purity and peace
of heaven.

Then she began to feel the
significance of the living en-
counter of the Son of God into the
life of his perfect pattern of holi-
ness in human relation. Then she
saw the lower conception of a
world and out of the world to the
conception of a world to be saved

of Christ's birth floating here among the writings of . . . but these were all of late manifestly unhistorical, and, quite contradictory. Clementine said that many Christians held the 20th of May as the nativity, others preferred April, but he favored the November. In the Eastern 5th or 6th of January was as the date of Christ's baptism, the nativity was joined with better ground than a forced opinion of Ezekiel, i. : 1-3, as a sign of the Incarnation. Others upon the 21st day of March held Christ's birth. Between strong and slightly-supported asser- tions was little to choose. The date was clearly out of

the vernal equinox (according to the Julian calendar, March 25th) the date of the creation. He questioned the value of such a card and Scriptural argument—have had more logic than belonged to the early church.

And once having discovered a method the very day on which the world came into being, and the light sprang out of darkness—simple than to assume the same day on which the Almighty overshadowed the Day-Spring from the high entrance into the world:—he felt plainer. Even the native of chronographers went forward from this fixed assumption nine months,

disciple of modern criticism this very simple exegesis may be thought that the early fathers have been very pious, but have even more foolishly self-satisfied but otherwise friendly, it is you who are in error. You suppose that the fathers imagined that they had a history or settling science by these similes. Other and later fathers, the fathers of the church," like Archbishop of Canterbury have thought their conclusions definite and exclusive of the primitive age faith, metaphysical, and all that Christians ever meant to do.

ht from the darkest and
nights of earth.
t mention of the 25th of

Iowans of Great Age.
Des Moines special says: The census report shows the centenarians in Iowa: Elijah York, Monona county; Homer Buchanan; Richard Tarnas, Henry Davitt, Warren; Julia Jackson; Anna Koer, Davenport; MacCauley, Armdt Marlawacke; John O'Malley, Daltatharine Parsons, Mitchell; Mar-bowling, Burlington; Thomas Burlington, and John Griswold, Burlington, are 101. Dennis Porter, Ark.; Ella Gorman, Grinnell, and McMahon, Muscatine, are 102. Holland, Van Buren, is 103; an Conrad, Delaware, and Mother Muscatine, are 104; Sarah Marshall, is 105, and Jane Bur-

POWDER.

[no 21-ly]

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DR.

ERE TITT ZZZ Q O L BDD = SSS
ERE TITT Z O O L B D D = SSS
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ERE T ZZZ Q L L L D D D = SSS

GERMAN

ERE HITT TTTT FFF RRR SSS
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